

FATH

ON THE LINE

DARE TO STAND

Our aim is to urge men and women to stand for truth and resist error. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will be giving you solid information on current issues, trends, and separation from the world.

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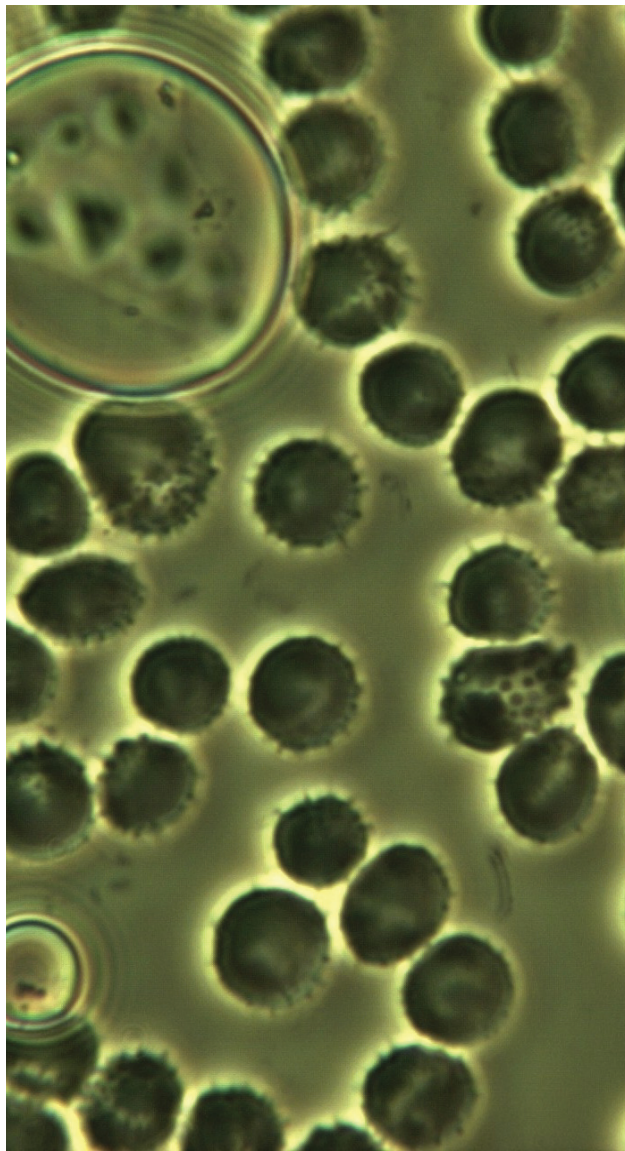
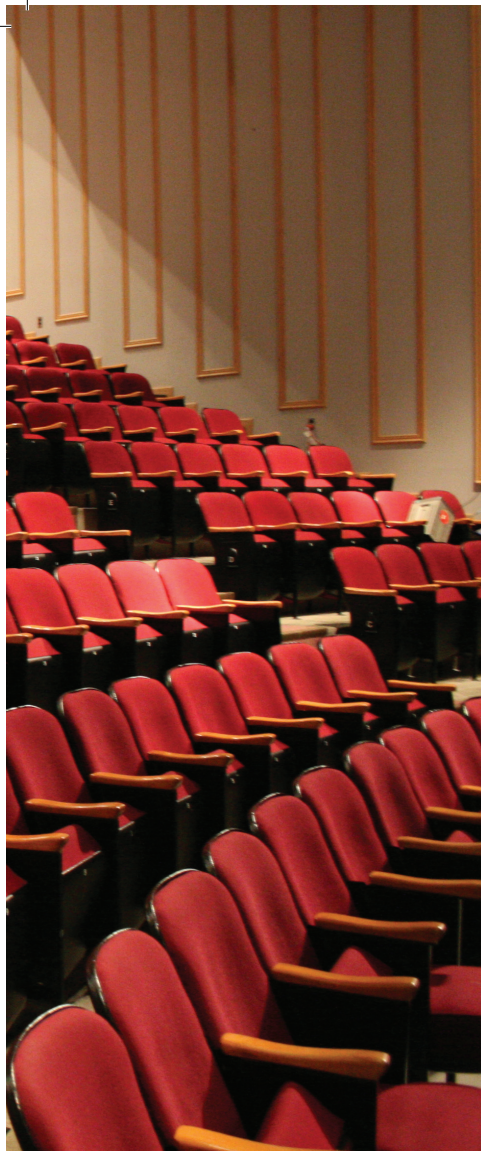


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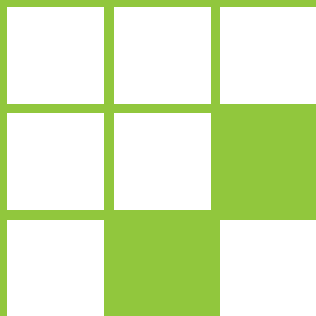
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EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue of *Faith on the Line* focuses on faith and trust in God—even when things don't make sense and the darkness falls around us. We are just returning to normal operations after the exciting Reformation Rekindled series in Ladner, BC. Although the lectures are over, the message will not be forgotten. The entire series was underpinned with the message that faith is not something we see, feel, or touch, but is a decision to believe, even when there is no tangible evidence.

When things get tough, when life doesn't turn out the way we expect, even Christians begin to question their faith. In this issue, Brian Neumann challenges us with some thoughts on the question "Does God really exist?"—a question that Christians and non-Christians alike sometimes secretly ask themselves. Dr. Veith also provides some honest answers about science and the Bible. Finally, we take a look at trusting in God when He asks us to do things that don't seem to make sense.

How is your faith today as we face an economic crisis and a change in leadership? Is your faith strong? Do you know the One within the shadow, keeping watch over His own? Do you know why you are an Adventist, and can you give a reason for your faith? I pray that in this issue you will find something to strengthen your faith. If you haven't viewed the Reformation Rekindled lectures yet, I encourage you to watch the archives on www.reformationrekindled.org. It is a series that no Christian should miss.

Wendy

Q & A

with

Professor Walter J. Veith

SCIENCE & THE BIBLE

Photo: Mario Baumgard



Can a scientist use strictly science to believe the Bible?

Science by itself will never convince anyone to believe the Bible, because in the scientific world, most people are pre-programmed. It is ingrained that there is this evolutionary paradigm, so people will not change. They are taught that the Bible account is a myth, an allegory. It cannot be a scientific fact. The flood story in the Bible is related to the Babylonian flood models, the Aztec flood models, or any other flood model. Somewhere there's a basis but that's all myth.

But once you start reading the evidence literally, the scientists say you have a screw loose

somewhere. When you test the creation theory, you actually find that the evidence shows that the creation account could be true, but it takes another jump—a mega leap, and to get that mega leap you have to first discover that God is, and that He is personally involved in your life. It's when I discovered prophecy, particularly Daniel 7, and that history is written in advance, that I was cornered. It just blew me away. Here was such a magnificent description of history in advance and there was no way around it. It stuns me that there are people in churches today who don't see the significance and relevance of prophecy. The whole of the Reformation saw it. They hewed it in stone. Yet today people are so blasé. They don't care anymore.

The way you characterize the scientific community is in complete contradiction to the conventional wisdom of what scientists are. They're supposed to be learned, informed, objective, and accomplished at eliminating personal bias, such that they do objective work. You're saying something completely different.

Take a look at the greatest proponent of the evolutionary paradigm living today—Richard Dawkins. He wrote some magnificent books on evolution. If you read his books, you will see how he vehemently attacks anything that is remotely connected to God. He calls the Creator of the eye a “tinkerer.” He is derogatory to the nth degree when it comes to anything religious. There's an emotion involved there. This is not just a scientific basis. I can understand it, because I had the same emotion, but he cannot make the paradigm shift. Of course what he writes is, pardon my language, total garbage, but he doesn't know it, because to him it's perfectly logical.

Do you think Richard Dawkins doesn't know that there's holes in his theory, or that he does know it and has some doubts but isn't strong or courageous enough to accept that line of inquiry?

I believe he won't entertain the doubt. It's so interesting that in his latest book he writes, “God almost certainly does not exist,” which is a misnomer in itself. You can't “almost certainly” not exist. God is either there or He isn't.

**“God almost certainly does not exist”—
Richard Dawkins**

Q & A



Photo: Jerick Azco

How do you reconcile being both a Christian and being a scientist? Isn't that a contradiction in terms?

That's what my colleague said. In actual fact, once you understand what the Bible is all about, then science becomes real for the first time because you are investigating from a position of strength when you believe the Bible. The collaboration is so overwhelming, and in the end, it's hard to understand why the others don't see it that way, because it is a paradigm shift of 180 degrees. It's the same evidence but from

a different perspective. So I have no problem with science and religion being reconciled because the Author of science and the Author of the universe are one and the same.

We're taught that science is objective with no preconceived notions or irrational beliefs and that things should be investigated with pure objectivity and pure reason. So, if you're a Christian first, isn't that a bias and does it not therefore compromise the claim to be a scientist?

It could be perceived as such, but if the evidence fits, then why not accept it? Why must we exclude the evidence purely on the basis of there being also an aspect of it in the Bible? If you exclude truth because it correlates with something in the Bible, then what you have is error. If you're going to say, "I cannot accept a Biblical flood because it comes from the Bible," and yet all the evidence points to a Biblical flood, then you are excluding truth for the sake of error.

You were working in an environment where I presume the vast majority of the people you were with day to day were non-believers or secular?

Strangely enough some of them were actually believers, but they didn't believe the Biblical paradigm. The geologists wouldn't believe the universal flood—it didn't fit into their science perspective. But a look at the fossils points to the evidence of a flood. The vast majority of all fossils are buried in mud deposits, water deposits. But there can't have been a flood in their paradigm, so they always have to rationalize. They say the fossils were buried in flood

plains. But do flood plains stretch over entire continents? These would have had to be mega flood plains! You can't get the kind of effects seen in the geological column unless you have a Biblical universal flood. But the flood doesn't fit their paradigm. Another example is the universal chalk layer, which means that there was a universal coverage of water. That doesn't fit their paradigm either, so they have to exclude that fact for the sake of their science.

Q & A

How do you sustain your faith in the face of all that disagreement or rejection of your fundamental point of view?

At the beginning it was quite tough. You feel like you don't want to even bring the subject of your faith up. You want to just keep it to yourself, to keep quiet, but eventually you get to where you realize this battle is not about you. This is a bigger battle. This battle is about truth. It's about Christ.

Then I started to understand what the world is doing to Jesus Christ, how at every turn it is HE that is downplayed, never someone else, always HIM. You never hear anything negative about any of the other religions. You hear, "Oh, you're a Buddhist, oh that's great! Meditation and all that...wonderful!" "Oh, you're this or that, how nice..." Islam is taking a bit of flack at the

moment but even there, the excuse is given "Oh, that's just radical Islam." But when it comes to Jesus, it's unbelievable what they do to Him.

Whether you listen to the media, or the scientific world, or elsewhere, He's always put down. The amazing thing is that nobody argues with Islam when it propagates creation. The argument is always with the Christian scientist. He's irrational. Islam? No, that's part of the package. He can be a creationist, that's to be understood, but not a Christian. To the Christian, they say, "You can't be a believer and a scientist at the same time." It is obvious that the war is not about me or you. The war is about truth.

CONVERSION



God seems to have led you to Him through the power of your mind and your reason rather than some cathartic emotional conversion. Some Christians would argue that unless you have that emotional conversion, you're not really moved by the Holy Spirit and your conversion isn't real. How would you respond to that based on your experience?

It is true that I had a purely logical academic conversion—based on historic fact as depicted in the prophecies, and based on the disparities I saw in the scientific world and the evidence in the natural world. I had a totally intellectual conversion. I knew nothing about Jesus Christ at first. I

had no personal relationship with Him, no walk with Him. Purely on that rational basis I decided—the evidence is there, then HE must be there.

If you don't have an emotional experience in the beginning, then the only thing you have is faith. With an emotional experience, you don't need that much faith. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Without faith it is impossible to please God, so faith in my opinion is more Biblical than an emotional experience. I had nothing but faith. I didn't know God. I, by faith, accepted that He is. I said to Him, "Since the evidence points to Your existence, I want to meet You," and we started our life together. His involvement is not one of euphoria, but one of relationship. By faith I accept that He is there and involved in my life.

...more questions and answers to come

The God Dilem



Emma

by Brian S. Neumann

Does God really exist? Can Christians answer the challenge?



From every quarter the basic foundations of the Christian faith are being questioned, challenged, and ridiculed. People are searching for answers and it is part of the Christian's calling to provide responses to the challenges being leveled at the very deity Christians profess to believe in. Can Christians really answer the challenges? Does the Adventist message provide a clear and unique answer for our faith?

One of the primary challenges of Christianity is to offer proof that God actually exists. Although we might not be able to answer every question concerning God, there are enough answers to provide good reasons to believe in His existence. Seventh-day Adventists need to be able to provide powerful arguments to agnostics, atheists, and those struggling with doubt, especially in light of our claim to be God's remnant people. Are we able to give clear reasons and arguments for our faith?

Often those who challenge God's existence do so because they know nothing else. They have either been indoctrinated through the secular educational system, some other religion, or someone they trust, or they have developed a hatred for Christianity and its God because of "Christians" themselves who have misrepresented the cause of God. Sadly, it may even be all of the above. The choice to reject or accept the God of Christianity is a choice people have made, based upon valid or invalid evidences. They do not have superior evidence or knowledge. The average atheist, agnostic, or humanist would have a very hard time producing the evidence that could clearly substantiate his or her beliefs. Another far more serious problem, however, is that most Christians also cannot produce enough evidence to substantiate why they believe what they do. The result is that there are Christians who choose to be Christians for the very same reasons that motivate the beliefs of non-Christians. Ignorance rules the day.

For the average human being, trapped in the confines of our three-dimensional earthly paradigm, Christian or not, it is impossible to answer the question of God's existence by producing or revealing God in some physically visible form. Jesus declares: "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him]" (John 1:18). If you debated the existence of the Queen of England, I

“Everything that man constructs or invents is proof, as it is in nature, that an intelligent mind designed and brought it into existence.”

could easily offer visible evidence of her existence. At the very least I could show you a photograph or produce a few witnesses who have actually seen her in the flesh. To offer such proof of God is, of course, impossible.

The fact that the Bible states: “the fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God” (Psalms 14:1), does not have any effect on an atheist who, for whatever reason, has come to the conclusion that God does not exist. The Bible might call such a person a fool, but in most cases, such people are blissfully unaware of their foolishness. If somebody challenged you about the existence of God it would, indeed, be foolishness to quote Psalms 14:1. The person couldn’t care less about what the Bible has to say, and the use of Scripture in such a case would only serve to antagonize them. Other methods need to be used to eventually lead them to the Bible or, at the very least, cause them to question their own beliefs.

If somebody challenged you by stating, “prove to me that God exists,” you could just as easily respond by saying, “prove to me that he does not exist.” You see, for the believer and skeptic alike, the challenge remains the same. The question should not really be about whether I can prove that God exists or not. The question is rather: “is there evidence that proves that God exists or does the evidence show he does not?” On this level the challenge becomes a very different one.

The skeptic might say that the violence, poverty, and moral condition of the world prove that there is no God. Does the Bible not say that, “God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us” (Ephesians 2:4)? Does it not say in the first epistle of John that the very nature of God “is love” (1 John 4:8)? A God who claims to be a God of love would never allow this to happen. The very fact that it is happening is proof that there is no God.

This statement, however, does not prove that there is no God. It simply invokes another question: “who says that

Understanding

1 Chronicles 12:32

“And of the children of Issachar...were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.”

■ On September 24, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proclaimed that the “American empire in the world is reaching the end of its road” before the United Nations General Assembly. It is important to know what Biblical Prophecy says about America, so we don’t have to be confused. Check out the link below to hear a portion of his interview with Larry King where he makes this statement.
<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meast/09/23/ahmadinejad.us/index.html#cnnSTCVideo>

■ A great economic crisis is just before us. The question is, will it be sooner rather than later? There needs to be a financial collapse in order for the beast power to “come to the rescue.” The bailout plan was scrapped at first, but now it seems it will be looked at again. Here is a link to an article that describes what the Senate is up against in what could be one of the most important rulings in recent history.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/business/02bailout.html?hp>

■ Americans are not going to church much anymore, according to Julia Duin, a reporter at the Washington Times who has recently written a book entitled, *Quitting Church: Why the Faithful Are Fleeing and What To Do About It*. You can read an excerpt from her book by typing in the link below.
<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/21/americans-leaving-churches-in-droves/>

■ A new law in Iran is being discussed that will punish apostasy by death in this Islamic country. The American government has heavily discouraged this proposition. You can read more about it by going to the website below.
<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20080919/iran-s-apostasy-death-penalty-raises-u-s-concern.htm>

■ A Vatican official stated that Creationism is useless. This should hardly be a surprise to anyone who has heard the words of recent Popes about this issue.
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,424942,00.html>

■ Scientists are in agreement: hurricanes are going to get even worse. I am so thankful that the Spirit of Prophecy told us a long time ago, in a book called *The Great Controversy*, that these things would come to pass right before the second coming of Jesus.
<http://www.livescience.com/environment/080918-hurricane-future.html>

“Most Christians also cannot produce enough evidence to substantiate why they believe what they do.”

God is a God of love, fairness, and justice?” Perhaps there is a god, but he might simply be a god of inequality, hatred, and injustice. The Bible does say that there is someone who has tried to put himself in the place of God and who is, in a primary sense, the cause of sin and suffering. With reference to Lucifer, the Scripture states: “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God” (Isaiah 14:13). The fact that evil exists could simply be proof of the controversy between the true God and the one who has attempted to usurp God’s authority. Just because there is evil in this world does not provide conclusive proof for the non-existence of a god, whatever his character might be. These things, when correctly understood, may very well be prime evidence for his existence. The skeptic who questions the existence of God based on the condition of this world and the character of its inhabitants needs to be told that this very condition actually serves as proof that there is a God, as ironic as that may sound.

An evolutionist might say that science proves that there is no God. According to scientists, enough evidence has been discovered to prove that matter came into being as the result of a big bang. Of course, this is not evidence for the non-existence of God. The only thing that the evolutionary paradigm does is attempt to challenge the Genesis account of the origins of life. It does not, as some may claim, refute the Genesis account. It is simply another paradigm based on interpretation and observation and the evolutionary theory is not even the unanimous opinion of all scientists. Even the scientific world is divided on how they interpret the evidences for the origin of life. The science of evolution is not proof that there is no God.

Previous discoveries that man has made through science are being challenged and, in many cases, even refuted by new scientific evidence. This underscores the fact that man’s science is fallible. For example, we know so little



Photo: Jonathan Larsen

“Both creationists and evolutionists are looking at the very same evidences in nature. They have the same data available to them.”

about how the human brain functions. Neurologists admit that the more they discover about the brain the more they realize how little they really know about it. If we know so little about ourselves, how can we even begin to be emphatic in our belief that there is no God?

The evidence provided by scientific discovery does not serve to refute the existence of God. The little we have discovered and invented in the last hundred years is simply evidence of the fact that we have yet much more to learn. Yet, this very brain which we do not use to its maximum and know so little about is the same brain that seems to be able to comprehend that there is no God.

One of the prime reasons for humankind's resistance to the existence of God is a desire to be the ultimate form of life. Some may call this arrogance. At the very least, it is ignorance. Perhaps it is both—in humankind's arrogance is found its most profound moment of ignorance. Humanity has been deceived into believing the lie that Lucifer deceived himself with in heaven. Lucifer later presented the same lie to Eve in the Garden of Eden. ‘...in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods...’ (Genesis 3:5). There seems to be an intrinsic desire in the heart of man to be the ultimate—to be a god, to never answer to any higher being or divinity. But as hard as it is to admit, we are not all-knowing. This knowledge alone should cause us to question whether we know enough about anything to be able to say that there is no God.

When fingerprints or DNA are gathered at the scene of a crime, they are retained as evidence that may ultimately help investigators find the perpetrator of the crime. The fingerprints or DNA are not the actual criminal, but their witness is so conclusive that they will be able to match only one person.

The DNA or fingerprints of God are to be found in the natural world around us. Everything in nature, imperfect though it may be at present, bears constant witness to the existence of God. In many ways, there is also DNA and fingerprints in this world that reveal a crime scene of massive proportions, the originator

of which is Lucifer. The terrible scenes taking place on planet Earth bear witness of the existence of a wicked entity. These negative things lend veracity to the claims God has made in the Bible concerning himself, creation, and the origin and continued existence of evil.

The existence of trees, water, land, animals, and humans, not to mention the existence of the vast expanses of the universe, is certainly evidence of something, whether it was some cosmic accident that took place billions of years ago or whether it was a Divine act. Concerning the testimony of nature the Psalmist writes that, “the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork” (Psalms 19:1).

Everything that man constructs or invents is proof that an intelligent mind designed and brought it into existence. Yet in spite of this men still choose to believe that all this evidence of design that exists in the natural world is not the result of an ultimate designer but rather the result of some freak accident. In other words, the existence of design in the natural world is simply evidence of a chance event. Even idiots do not believe that an explosion in a steel factory produced the Eiffel Tower. Someone once said that it actually takes more faith to believe in the theory of evolution than it takes to believe in a supreme being who designed and created the universe. Perhaps they have a point.

There is no evidence that is even vaguely conclusive that there is no God. When an atheist says, “there is no God,” it is simply based on an assumption that he chooses to believe. He has never seen any actual evidence (scientific or otherwise) proving that there is no God. The fact that you cannot see something is not proof that it does not exist. You cannot say that “I have seen there is no God,” or “I know there is no God because I haven't seen Him.” You cannot look at the evidence of the real world around you and say, “all these things around me are proof that a God does not exist.” The fact that there is something, the fact that the atheist himself exists in the flesh is, at the very least, evidence of some type of origin.

“The difference is how they choose to interpret the evidence.”

Although it is not possible for a believer in God to provide the person of God—in the flesh—as evidence to support his or her belief, it is, nonetheless possible to offer testimony in history, Scripture, the evidences of nature, and one’s own personal faith experience to support the belief in the existence of God. Everything in the real world, from the smallest microcosm to the activities of animals or people, suggests existence by design.

It is up to each one to choose whether they prefer to have faith in a bang (which they never saw or even have any real present evidence for, other than what fallible human scientists infer from evidence in nature) or whether they would rather have faith in a Supreme Designer that has left evidence in history, nature, the written word, and the testimony of personal faith experiences.

The evolutionist might say to the creationist: “Your model for origins of life is based on an unscientific, biblical/religious claim. We, on the other hand, base our conclusions on natural evidence and science.” They have the same data available to them. The difference is how they choose to interpret the evidence. And the question for the intelligent seeker of truth is to ask the question: “Where does the weight of evidence really lie?”

The skeptic may still challenge you for believing that there is a God. He may still ridicule you for practicing the Christian faith. But the skeptic will also have to admit that although he does not believe in God, he still believes in and has faith in something, even if that something is the inadequate, volatile, and unsubstantial wisdom of the human mind—“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” 2 Timothy 3:7. ■

A professional artist and musician, Brian Neumann enjoys speaking and writing on contemporary issues facing the Church. He resides in South Africa with his wife and two sons.

SLEEPWALKING

By Victor Gill

In the parable Jesus told of the Ten Virgins, all were asleep. This Parable depicts God’s people who live in the last days. The problem is we don’t realize our condition and this precipitates problems in detecting Satan’s tactics. The burden of this message is to forewarn God’s people of the deceptions that Satan is using to mix New Age philosophy with Christian ideologies thus bringing about the Omega of Apostasy that we have been warned about.

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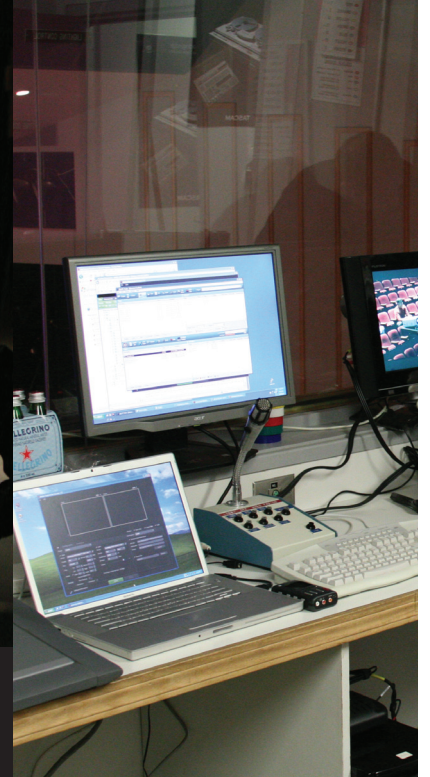
Reformation Rekindled



The reformation comes to Ladner, BC— In early October 2008, Professor Walter Veith presented the first part of his new lecture series, Reformation Rekindled, at the Genesis Theatre in Ladner, BC. The lectures were streamed live during the series, and despite minor technical difficulties, an average of nearly 3000 people viewed the lectures online every night. Local attendance numbered approximately 100 people per night with visitors from as far as Montana and California.

The series consisted of 11 lectures out of a total of 22 on the subject of the reformation and how it has been annulled ever since. Veith discusses the role of the papacy in recent times to undo the reformation's effects, and shows protestantism's failure in upholding the principles on which it was founded. In an intriguing interview done in Nürnberg, Germany, passers-by are interviewed in front of the Ratshaus (City Hall) whereon are hewed in stone the four beasts of Daniel 7. Throughout the series, Veith clarifies the "new" definitions of key words used by the Vatican and the UN that define the new agenda to control the inhabitants of earth and enforce ecumenism and papal worship. The series includes an in-depth presentation





on the climate change issue and its repercussions in today's political movements. Veith also answers the question on the significance of the nation of Israel and presents the truth of Jesus, who modern Christian leaders are trying to erase from Christianity to replace with the cosmic Christ.

The series concluded with a heartfelt look at the Oxford martyrs who are hardly remembered for their sacrifice by fire on the grounds of the Oxford University.

Veith presents fascinating quotes throughout, such as Grattan Guinness' statement in 1887: "The day ... may be very near when we shall all have to fight the battle of the Reformation over again ... 300 years of Bible light and liberty have made us over-confident and led us to underestimate the power and influence of the deadliest foe, not only of the Gospel of God, but also of Protestant England." As Veith says, "what would he say now? Perhaps now we must say that the day is far gone for people to fight the battle of the reformation all over again. We're almost too late."

The series will be available shortly and can be viewed live at: www.reformationrekindled.org (archive). This is a series no Adventist should miss.

As Veith says, "These [martyrs] may not be forgotten for what they stood for." ■





by Rudy Davis

Sometimes patients come to our office carrying handfuls of medications that they cannot even pronounce. All they know is that they were told they needed the medications. These poor sufferers do not know how they got sick or how to get well.

We need to understand as a society that introducing more poison into the system is not a solution for getting rid of the poisonous matter which has accumulated in our system. Let me put it this way: it would be like sinning in order to get rid of sin.

In order to get rid of sin, we must take in the sinless One, “Christ in you, the hope of glory” and, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Colossians 1:27; Romans 12:21).

Spiritual truths have physical parallels. For example, there is a great lesson in how to get well physically, which can be drawn from how sin is conquered. From a spiritual viewpoint, the reason we cannot make ourselves holy is because we are sinful. Our efforts at self-righteousness can be compared to using a poison to get rid of a poison. And because we are sinners, we cannot heal our sin-sick selves in much the same way that a poison cannot rid the body of poison. True spiritual healing takes the work of Someone who is sinless, that is, Jesus Christ. His pure life, taken into the sinner’s inner self by faith, will cleanse and heal the whole life. Let us apply this most precious truth to our physical bodies: in order to get rid of poison we must add only good, non-poisonous remedies. God’s great work of defeating sin in our lives does not come from the use of subtraction, as in removing sin, but from addition, as in adding Christ.

Drugs or medications produce their own set of symptoms. Then, more drugs are introduced to get rid of the side effects from the previous drug. All drugs are poisons and thus can only add to the misery of an already poisoned condition. It is much like the person who tries to make themselves holy—they will continually keep failing simply because they are a sinner trying to get rid of sin. Like drugs and their side effects, self-reformation produces un-Christlike spiritual side effects such as self-praise. But the Word of God says, “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one” (Job 14:4). Do we need to become sinless? Yes we do; but this can only be possible through Christ dwelling in us.

Christians need to change their thinking from that of conquering sin to that of accepting the victory Christ has already gained. Sin is not our enemy. Satan is. The law shows us sin and, in turn, sin shows us our need for a Saviour. Christians usually fail at overcoming sin because they focus on defeating sin, leaving the real enemy—Satan—to attack again and again.

But looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, we move on from victory to victory, through faith in what He has already accomplished. “For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith” (Romans 4:13). Christ is the only remedy, the only nourishment the poisoned sinner truly needs. Sinful acts are symptoms telling us that there is a deeper underlying problem. Now here comes the physical parallel: from a physiological viewpoint, we also need a shift in our thinking. We have to understand that symptoms are not the enemy of the body—poisons are. Symptoms are the friend of the body, just as the law is our friend showing us that we have been doing something wrong. Symptoms are indicators of deeper underlying causes for our discomfort; symptoms show that the body has somehow accumulated poisonous matter.

Carrying on with the *Review and Herald* series of articles, Ellen White was given these words to share:

Very many lives have been sacrificed by physicians' administering drugs for unknown diseases. They have no real knowledge of the exact disease that afflicts the patient. But physicians are expected to know in a moment what to do; and unless they act at once as if they understood the disease perfectly, they are considered by impatient friends, and by the sick, as incompetent. Therefore, to gratify erroneous opinions of the sick and their friends, medicine must be administered, experiments and tests tried, to cure the patient of a disease of which the physician has no real knowledge. Nature is loaded with poisonous drugs, which she cannot expel from the system. The physicians themselves are often convinced that death was the result of their use of powerful medicines for a disease that did not exist.

Physicians are censurable, but they are not the only ones at fault. The sick themselves, if they would be patient, diet, suffer a little, and give nature time to rally, would recover much sooner without the use of any medicine. Nature alone possesses curative powers. Medicines have no power to cure, but generally hinder nature in her efforts. She, after all, must do the work of restoring. The sick are in a hurry to get well, and their friends are impatient. They will have medicine; and if they do not feel the powerful influence upon their systems that their erroneous views lead them to think they should feel, they impatiently send for another physician. The change often increases the evil. They go through a course of medicine equally as dangerous as the first, and more fatal, because the two treatments do not agree, and the system is poisoned beyond remedy.

But many have never experienced the beneficial effects of water, and are afraid to use one of Heaven's greatest blessings. Water has been refused to persons suffering with burning fevers, through fear that it would injure them. If, in their fevered state, water had been given them to drink freely, and



**Sinful acts
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problem.**

applications had also been made externally, long days and nights of suffering would have been saved, and many precious lives spared. But thousands have died with raging fevers consuming them, until the fuel which fed the fever was burned up, and the vitals consumed; they have died in the greatest agony, without being permitted to have water to allay their burning thirst. Water, which is allowed a senseless building to put out the raging elements, is not allowed human beings to put out the fire that is consuming the vitals.

Pure, soft water has incredible effects both inside and outside the body. Here at the Bayside Natural Health Center, we see a lot of healing taking place as a result of this incredible fluid. Most people are dehydrated, and pain is one of the first signs of dehydration. People should be drinking water instead of seeking relief for their pains through drugs. Water is one of God's natural doctors, but many ignore the laws of nature in regard to water usage. I have seen chronic fatigue relieved by supplying water to a greatly dehydrated system. The water acts like hydro-electric power in the body, producing energy as it passes through the walls of cells.

Multitudes remain in inexcusable ignorance in regard to the laws of their being. They wonder why the race is so feeble, and why so many die prematurely. Is there not a cause? Physicians, who profess to understand the human organism, prescribe for their patients, and even for their own dear children, and their companions, slow poisons to break up disease, or to cure some slight indisposition. Surely they can not realize the evil of these things, or they would not do thus. The effects of the poison may not be immediately perceived, but it is doing its work in the system, undermining the constitution, and crippling nature in her efforts. They are seeking to correct an evil, but produce a far greater one, which is often incurable. Those who are thus dealt with are constantly sick, and constantly dosing. And yet, if you listen to their conversation, you will often hear them praising the drugs they have been using, and recommending their use to others, because, they say, they have been benefited by their use. It would seem that to such as can reason from cause to effect, the sallow countenance, the continual complaints of ailments, and the general prostration of those who claim to be benefited, would be sufficient proofs of the health-destroying influence of drugs. Yet many are so blinded that they do not see that all the drugs they have taken have not cured them, but made them worse. The drug invalid numbers one in the world, but is generally peevish, irritable, always sick, lingering out a miserable existence, and seems



Photo: iStockphoto

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

by Connie Kiefiuk

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a particularly difficult chronic progressive neurological disease. About 400,000 people in the US alone have the disease, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. MS is most often diagnosed between twenty and forty years of age, striking women about three times more often than men.¹ MS patients have recurrent attacks on their nervous system and gradually lose their ability to walk or to see. They are often confined to a wheelchair after ten to fifteen years and then to bed rest for the remainder of their lives.² Mortality is increased fourfold compared with the general population in patients with advanced disability.³

Multiple sclerosis causes a lack of coordination and control when the electrical signals carrying messages to and from the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) pass through the peripheral nervous system. This is a result of the myelin (the insulating cover or sheath of the nerve fibers) being destroyed by an autoimmune reaction. As the electrical signals get short-circuited, they can destroy cells and burn patches of neighboring tissue, leaving little scars or bits of sclerotic tissue, which can ultimately destroy the body.⁴

An outstanding pioneer in the research of the effect of diet on MS patients is Dr. Roy Swank. He worked in Norway and then at the Montreal Neurological Institute during the 1940s. In the summer of 1948, he was offered a five-year-long opportunity to investigate multiple sclerosis with adequate financing for his family (wife and two children), and three months travel to observe other researchers and their work. He was also given full financial support for his research through the Montreal Neurological Institute. Later, Dr. Swank headed the Division of Neurology at the University of Oregon Medical School.

He learned that MS is over one hundred times more prevalent in the far north than closer to the equator, which is very similar to the prevalence of other autoimmune diseases such as Type 1 diabetes and

SIS

rheumatoid arthritis.⁵ Dr. Swank thought that diet, especially animal-based foods which are high in saturated fats, was responsible for the disease—contrary to the then-popular opinions that magnetic fields might be the culprit.

He recruited 144 MS patients from the Montreal Neurological Institute and conducted his best-known research trial in which he kept records on these patients for the next thirty-four years. He advised these patients to consume a diet low in saturated fat, most of whom did, but many of whom did not.⁶ He then classified the patients as either good dieters or poor dieters, based on their consumption of ± 20 g/day of saturated fat.

Dr. Swank found that the progression of disease was greatly reduced by the low-saturated fat diet, even for those with initially advanced conditions. He summarized his work in 1990, concluding that for the sub-group of patients who began the low-saturated fat diet during the earlier stages of their disease, “about 95%...remained only mildly disabled for approximately thirty years.”⁷ Only 5% of these

patients died, in contrast to the 80% of the patients with early-stage MS who consumed the “poor” diet (higher saturated fat) and died of MS.⁸

In an interview with Dr. John McDougall, Dr. Swank said, “We found a heavy fat diet caused changes in circulation. After a meal typically eaten by Americans, red cells became very sticky and stuck to one another. About three hours after a meal they aggregated together to form clumps. And these clumps are large enough and tough enough so they can obstruct circulation in small capillaries, and that goes on throughout the body. We could see those changes in animals after feeding a high fat diet and also found a breakdown of the blood-brain barrier in these animals. I think this kind of injury results in the perivascular lesions that are typical of MS.”⁹

Dr. Swank’s was an amazing study, given the fact that these people were followed for thirty-four years. His first results were published more than a half century ago, then again and again for the next forty years.¹⁰ More recently, additional studies have confirmed and extended Swank’s observations and gradually have begun to place more emphasis on cow’s milk, showing that its consumption is strongly linked to MS both when comparing different countries and when comparing states within the US.

We would be wise to heed Dr. Swank’s words: “My fifty years of research and working with approximately 5000 people, just like you, have proven that this protocol works to slow progression of the disease as well as benefit overall health. After considerable research, I developed this plan for the treatment of multiple sclerosis that absolutely anyone can do. A lifestyle change will have to take place, which may be a challenge for you, but the challenges of living with a disability are much greater.”¹¹ ■

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¹Campbell, PhD., T. Colin, *The China Study*, First Edition, Dallas: First Benbella Books, 2005.

²Ibid.

³McDougall, M.D., John A. <http://www.drmcDougall.com/about.html>

⁴Campbell, PhD., T. Colin, *The China Study*, First Edition, Dallas: First Benbella Books, 2005.

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⁹The McDougall Newsletter, Nov/Dec ‘98.

¹⁰ Campbell, PhD., T. Colin, *The China Study*, First Edition, Dallas: First Benbella Books, 2005.

¹¹ The Multiple Sclerosis Resource Center—The Swank Diet, <http://www.swankmsdiet.org/Home%20Page>

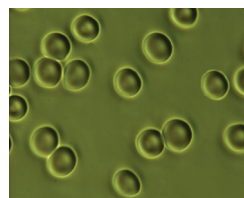
to live only to call into constant exercise the patience of others. Poisonous drugs have not killed him outright, for nature is loath to give up her hold on life; she is unwilling to cease her struggles. Yet drug-takers are never well.

Willful violation of the laws of health is sin. When we sin, we separate ourselves from the presence of God. Keep in mind that God’s desire is still to walk among His children. And if we separate ourselves from His presence, then we are robbing others of the blessing of God being with us and dwelling in us, not to mention the blessing we would have received simply by being a channel of blessing for others. God wants to be a blessing to all of His children, but willful disobedience often prevents this. May God have mercy upon all of us.

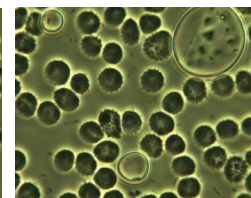
When talking with people about their medications, I notice that there is always some new drug—one that is supposed to be the best one yet. I also see ads on all the different media for drugs that claim to improve your well-being. Drugs seem to be our answer to the disease problem; we do not need to repent from violating the laws of our body, we just need to take a drug and all will be well. Our scientific community seems bent on finding a cure for disease instead of looking for the cause of disease. I tell you the truth, if we find the cause, we have found the cure. Let us continue with the counsel that God has given us through His servant:

The endless variety of medicines in the market, the numerous advertisements of new drugs and mixtures, all of which, they say, result in wonderful cures, kill hundreds where they benefit one. Those who are sick are not patient. They will take the various medicines, some of which are very powerful, although they know nothing of the nature of the mixtures. All the medicines they take only make their recovery more hopeless. Yet they keep dosing, and continue to grow worse until they die. Some will have medicine at all events. Then let them take these hurtful mixtures, and the various deadly poisons, upon their own responsibility. God’s servants should not administer medicines, which they know will leave behind injurious effects upon the system, even if they do relieve present suffering.

Compare these two photographs while considering the above statement. The photo on the left is healthy blood, while the photo on the right was taken less than a week after a chemotherapy treatment.



Healthy Red Blood Cells



Red Blood Cells After Chemo

God's great work of defeating sin in our lives does not come from the use of subtraction, as in removing sin, but from addition, as in adding Christ.

These visuals did not exist in sister White's time, but today you would have to be blind not to see the difference between these two photos. When I saw the photos, I thought to myself, "How can the body live with blood in this condition? Is it any wonder this poor soul could hardly muster the strength to do something as simple as just standing up?"

Ellen White's words have been validated over and over again in my practice as I have witnessed first hand the healing that takes place when, *under professional supervision*, drugs are removed from the lives of sick individuals and replaced with God's eight natural doctors.

A WORD OF CAUTION

If you want to get off any medication, do your own research about the drug you are taking. Search for information on the Internet, and talk to a pharmacist to get as much information as you can about the side effects from your medication. If the drug is addictive, or one that will require a doctor's supervision to reduce and stop altogether, go see your doctor. Ask them to monitor you while you change your diet and lifestyle, because the drugs will become too strong, as well as unnecessary. This could provide your doctor with a test case to prove whether or not God's way works. If they will not agree to take you off the drug, then find yourself a doctor who will. God will help you find one if you ask Him!

I want to reiterate a point that I made in the opening article of this series. The quotes I have added are not of Ellen White giving her opinion of drugs and their effects. They are the words of God, who sees the end from the beginning, showing her how damaging drugs are to the human system. My own research and clinical experience have validated for me the love, compassion, truth, and farsighted brilliance of the One who gave sister White the vision.

"Be not afraid of man, for My shield shall protect you. It is not you that speaketh: it is the Lord that giveth the messages of warning and reproof. Never deviate from the truth under any circumstances. Give the light I shall give you. *The messages for these last days* shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil." 1 *Selected Messages* 32.3 Emphasis added. The messages God gave Ellen White were for these last days not just for her day.

In closing, I entreat you to seriously consider the information that has been presented in this series of articles. Realize that God needs you to be a blessing to others and to show them that His eight natural doctors are not an alternative, but rather the only way to heal the body while bringing glory to His name.

Look at the misery and suffering that surrounds us because of ignorance and error. Is it not time for the Lord's children to reveal their Father's character of love by living and standing for the truth He has so graciously given them? Should we not go to God, trusting that what He has given us through the Spirit of Prophecy is all we need as we seek to regain our health, no matter what the world or science might say?

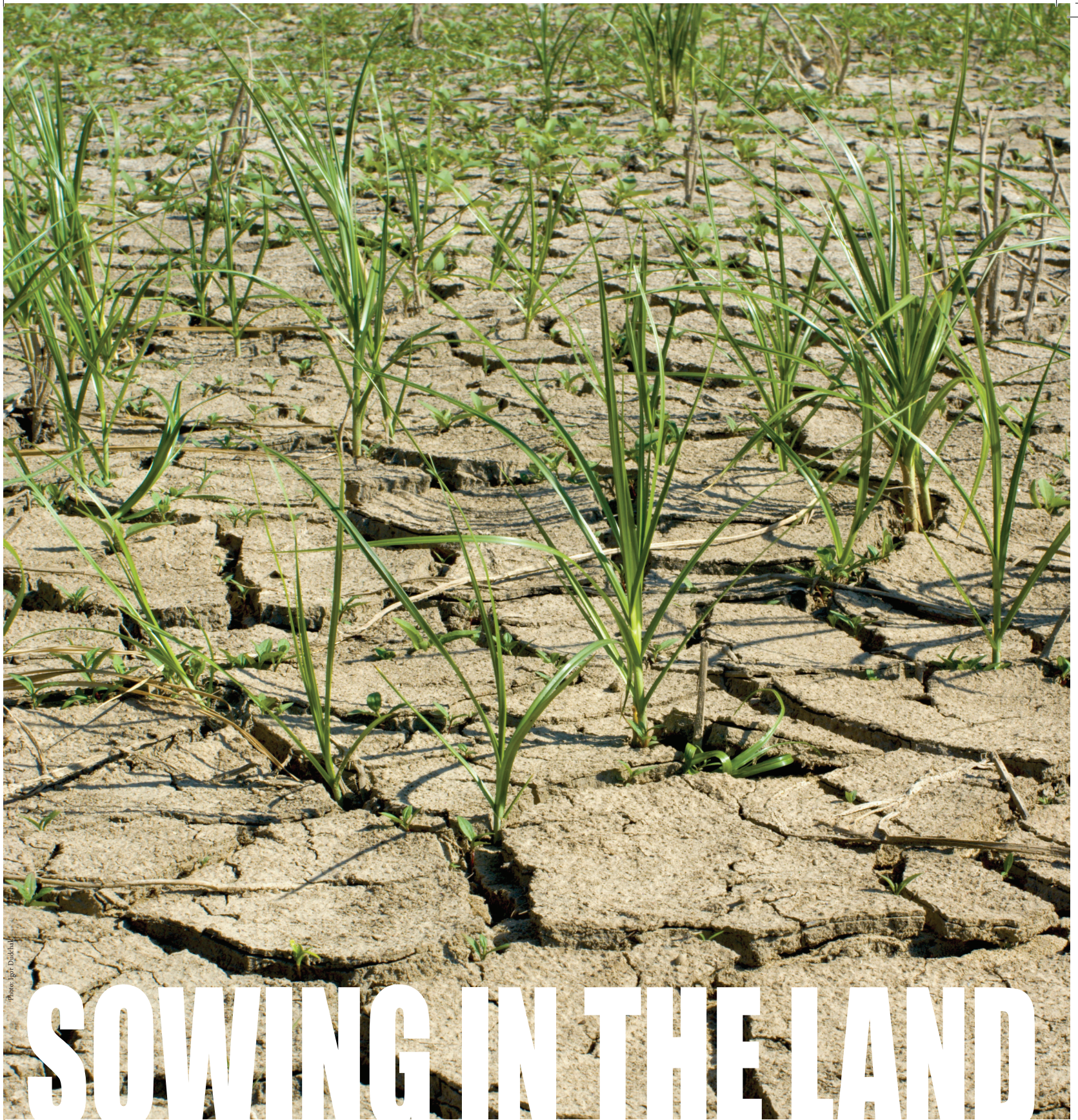
Lights only shine when the power is allowed to take up residence in the bulb. So it is with God's children when His truth is allowed to take up residence in them. ■

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Photo: Olga Lyubkova

Photo: Igor Dabich



Sowing in a dry land? Sometimes God calls us
to do things that do not make sense.
What constitutes “success” in the world’s eyes is often
something completely different in God’s eyes.

By John Triplett

The situation of our planet and the prophecies of the Bible indicate that we are definitely living in tremendous times—times in which we will need a supernatural measure of faith. When we look in the Bible, we see stories of people who were just like us. They were weak and made mistakes, but were also willing to be led and taught by God. Their lives can help us understand God better and grow in our faith.

In the book of Genesis we find a story of a time not much different from our own.

“And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land” Genesis 12:9-10.

From this account, we can infer that the land of Egypt had plenty of food. We can know this for certain from Genesis 41:46-47, which states, “And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.”

And Genesis 42:1-2: “Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.”

Egypt was a land of fruitfulness; it was a land of prosperity. It sounds very similar to the prosperity of the West today, doesn't it? When Abraham's son Isaac came onto the scene, he also faced a famine. And, just like his father, Isaac received a word from the Lord about how to deal with the circumstances he found himself in:

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father (Genesis 26: 1-3)

Here God appears to Isaac to tell him, “Don't go to Egypt. Don't go to the land where everyone wants to go. But rather dwell in this land.” God asks Isaac to stay in the land that has been struck by famine and poverty—a land void of life. God called Isaac to do the illogical thing and stay in a land of death, rather

than flee to Egypt—a place of life. This logic does not make sense to the carnal mind, but we need to be prepared for God to call us to do even the illogical thing, as he called Isaac to do.

We need to be prepared for God to call us to do even the illogical thing

Sometimes God calls us to do full-time ministry when we have a good career. Sometimes God asks us to love when the world would naturally hate. Sometimes God asks us to give a difficult message that puts us into painful and unpopular positions. Sometimes God calls us to continue working for Him, even when it seems like nothing is working and like we are complete failures. Sometimes God calls us to do things that, quite frankly, do not make sense. And to those around us we may really look

like we are doing the illogical thing, but if God is behind it, however strange it might be, it is logical in the eyes of heaven. What constitutes “success” in the world's eyes is often something completely different in God's eyes.

“Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him” (Genesis 26:12). Isaac chose to obey God and to sow in the land of famine and death. Today we are in a famine of hearing the Word of God like

Photo: Fotolia

the one described in Amos 8:11. And sometimes we can become disheartened and discouraged when all we see is a vehement hostility toward the things of God.

But, in the exact same way that God called Isaac to sow in that parched land, God is calling you and me to sow in this land. This is not a work that your local pastor can do on his own. God calls each and every one of us, the whole Church, to focus on sowing the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can reap a reward in this land of spiritual death, just like Isaac did—a reward of precious blood-bought children of God.

Genesis 26:13–14 says that God blessed Isaac tremendously, making him the envy of the Philistines. This is significant because the Philistines were usually the ones that loaned money to the Israelites! Isaac was asked to trust in God in the face of famine—when it looked as though nothing could work out and he became the envy of the Philistines, a witness that God was with him.

How can we apply this today? If we trust God and continue to be faithful to what God has told us to do, He will bless us and use us to further His kingdom.

Sometimes God calls us to do things that, quite frankly, do not make sense.

We know that Christ is coming soon—the signs in the world today proclaim it loudly. The lessons of trust in God and faithfulness to what

He has called us are lessons we need to learn if we are to stay faithful through the trials ahead. God is calling people to a new and higher experience of trust and faithfulness in the face of difficulties and even despair.

We may very well soon face situations similar to the trials faced by Daniel and his three friends. Because Daniel was faithful, God exalted him to be a great ambassador, a great witness, to all those around. Daniel and his friends were exalted on three separate occasions to be ambassadors for the God of Heaven—after hearing the king's dream (Daniel 2), in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3), and in the lion's den (Daniel 6). These three scenarios have one thing in common: a death decree.

Let us take a look at Revelation 13:11-17 and compare the end-time trials with the Daniel's:

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a

dragon. And he...causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed....saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ...

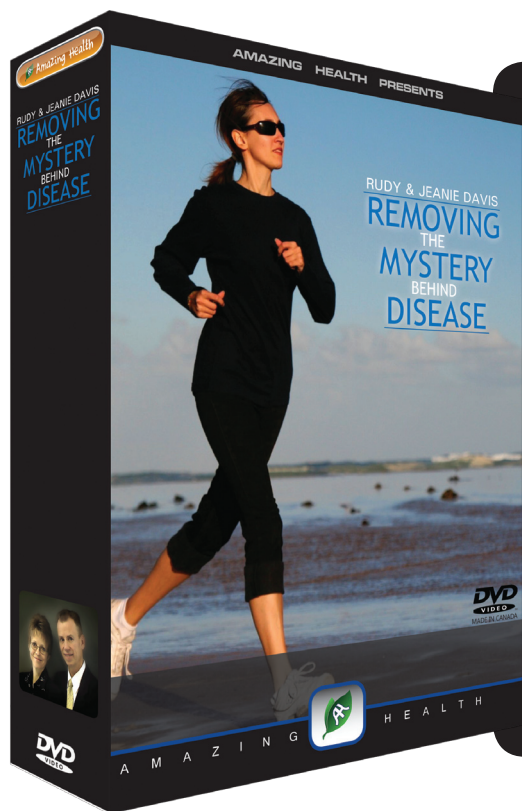
I used to think that this was a scary passage, and in some ways I still do, but now I see it a bit differently. During the mark-of-the-beast crisis there is going to be an escalation, an increase of pressure, an increase of intensity, just as it was in Daniel's day. During the time of the unveiling of the golden image, Daniel's three friends were not thrown into the furnace immediately. Instead there was a step-by-step increase of pressure levied against them to abandon their allegiance to God.

After the death decree was issued in Daniel 3, the circulation of God's message sped up. Everyone was at the dedication of the image, and everyone was a witness to the power of God and the faithfulness of His servants. Every person there took home an unbelievable firsthand account of the power of Daniel's God.

The death decree in our time will be a means of telling the whole world the three angels' messages in a very short amount of time. Then Jesus will come, and we will be with Him for all eternity. But until then, God is giving us trials everyday to prepare us for the time when we will have to stand against the whole world as people that "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

This is a time where many are beginning to faint or even to wonder if they shouldn't go down to Egypt, to wonder if "drought" and "famine" is really where God wants them to be, especially as the economy is failing and financial stability is collapsing. Instead, this should be the time for us to hold on even tighter. The Devil wants to destroy every single one of God's people. I am so thankful that Jesus wants to save us even more than we want to save ourselves. Let us hold fast to Him in these closing moments of Earth's history. ■

John Triplett's passion is to lead others into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.



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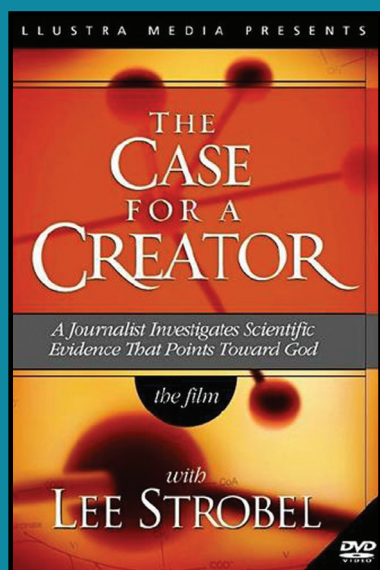
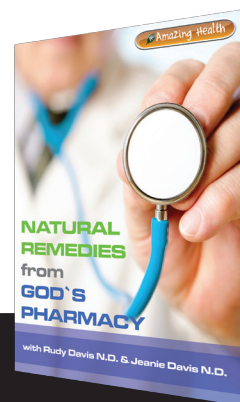
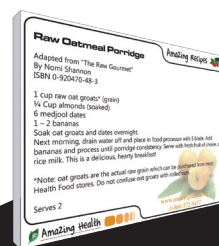
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